

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3941
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, LY
SUBJ: POWER TO THE PEOPLE

REF: 76 TRIPOLI 1498

1. IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS TO THE NATION THE EVENING OF
DECEMBER 29, LIBYAN RCC CHAIRMAN COL. QADHAFI APPEALED
TO FELLOW LIBYANS TO PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE TO CREATE
"PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY" IN LIEU OF THE PRESENT FORM OF GOVERN-
MENT. QADHAFI APPEALED TO EVERY LIBYAN MALE AND FEMALE
TO ATTEND THE LOCAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS MEETINGS BEGINNING
JANUARY 1 WHICH WILL DISCUSS ADOPTION OF HIS GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION SCHEME.

2. IN SPEECH WHICH LOCAL MEDIA DESCRIBED AS HISTORIC
THE RCC CHAIRMAN INDICATED THAT THE DECISION TO REORGANIZE
GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MADE MARCH 3 WHEN THE GENERAL
PEOPLE'S CONGRESS RECONVENES. QADHAFI STRESSED THAT
DECISION WOULD ESTABLISH LIBYA'S FORM OF GOVERNMENT
FOR GENERATIONS. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE NEW
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NAME OF THE REPUBLIC ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS WOULD
FACTUALLY REFLECT THE COUNTRY'S FORM OF GOVERNMENT
AND INDICATED THAT ADOPTION OF THE KORAN WOULD ELIMINATE
LIBYA'S PRESENT CONSTITUTION.

3. QADHAFI ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE DAYS OF THE RCC
WERE NUMBERED. HE STATED THAT THE PREVIOUS PEOPLE'S

GENERAL CONGRESS DEPENDENCE ON HIMSELF AND THE RCC WAS ONLY TEMPORARY AND THAT NEITHER HE NOR THE RCC WOULD REMAIN IN POLITICS FOREVER, THAT "AS MORTALS THEY SURELY WILL DISAPPEAR IN A PERIOD OF TIME WHICH CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH THE AGE OF THE PEOPLE OR HUMANITY." HE SAID THAT "IF THE RCC REMAINED THERE WOULD BE NO MEANING OR NECESSITY FOR THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES, TRADE UNIONS NOR THE PEOPLE'S GENERAL CONGRESS." HE CLAIMED RCC'S ABSOLUTE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POWERS CONTRADICT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY WHICH, IN TURN, IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE EXISTENCE OF THE RCC, A PRESIDENT, PARTY, CLASS, FAMILY, ASSOCIATION, SECT, TRIBE OR A PARLIAMENT. HE DESCRIBED THESE GROUPS AS DICTATORSHIPS WHICH THE LIBYAN PEOPLE DECIDED TO REMOVE. NEVERTHELESS, QADHAFI INDICATED THAT THE RCC MEMBERS, AS LIBYAN CITIZENS, WOULD BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE LIBYAN PEOPLE FOR ANY POSITION IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE.

4. QADHAFI ENDED HIS ADDRESS BY REITERATING APPEAL TO LIBYAN PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE CONFLICT AND STRUGGLE THAT EXISTS IN OTHER SOCIETIES STEM FROM THE LACK OF PARTICIPATION OF ITS CITIZENS. HE STATED THAT SUCH CONFLICTS WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST AS LONG AS POWER REMAINS THE MONOPOLY OF THE PARTY, INDIVIDUAL, COUNCIL, SECT OR TRIBE.

COMMENT: COL. QADHAFI'S APPEAL TO LIBYAN PEOPLE TO DEBATE REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SUGGESTS HIS CONCERN THAT THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO ASSUME ROLE AS "PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY." ON THE OTHER HAND, RCC CHAIRMAN COULD EASILY CLAIM THAT LACK OF INTEREST IN REFORM OF LARG REFLECTS THEIR SATISFACTION WITH HIS LEADERSHIP. CARLE

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